

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicant notes that prior to the present communication, claims 1-13 and 16-24 were pending, rather than claims 1-24, as set forth in the Office Action. Claims 14-15 were previously canceled in the amendment dated on October 28, 1999. By the present communication, claims 13 and 16-24 are canceled without prejudice, and claims 1-12 are now pending. Applicant expressly reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of the canceled claims in a timely filed continuation application.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging that claims 1-12 are allowable in their present form.

In the Office Action, claims 13-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite and under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Sotoroudis et al. (Eur. J. Biochem., 1978). While Applicant disagrees with these rejections, solely to obtain quick allowance, claims 13-24 are canceled, rendering the present rejection of these claims moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and provide a Notice of Allowability for claims 1-12.

CONCLUSION

As discussed above, the present amendment places the application in condition for allowance. If any issues remain to be resolved in view of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below so that a prompt disposition of this application can be achieved.

Respectfully submitted,

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